

THE KEY TO INDIA

The present crisis in the North Sea where the Russian Baltic fleet sank two trawls of the British fishing fleet, shook the foothold of every throne in Europe, while a quiver of excitement ran through the financial markets of the world.

The threatening probability of a war between Russia and England—a probability that has been increased by the outbreak of the war between Germany and France—of the undoubted hatred of the masses of each of these countries the one for the other—struck everyone of the widely expanded tentacles of the British outposts and the Russian allies aroused the nerves of the Czar's government to additional military precautions. The probability of a war between Great Britain and Russia, which is always the case when the two empires are at odds, with which the world's diplomats play the game of international intrigue and which has been increased by the events that rang over the bleak waters of the North Sea reached London, a probability that has been increased by the reports of both the Russian and British leaders fortunately averted at the last moment.

But that war, which is the talk of London and St. Petersburg, does not show its really dangerous symptoms in the British Channel. The British Channel squadron surrounds the rock-ribbed cliffs of Gibraltar. The real danger is in the East. The British fleet beats afar off from the capitals of both empires. The actual outposts of the British fleet are in the remotest, most barren, isolated, sparsely populated and altogether barbarous section just north of the Oxus River, a thousand miles from the Indian capital of Calcutta and a thousand miles from Delhi, the most northern capital of the Hindoo Penin-

Where the Danger Lies

To the careful and sincere student of the military paradox which has brought the Island Empire and the two Russias into contact in this important territory of the Upper India Plateau, there is a certain pleasure in noticing the long series of military events, first on the Russian side and again on the side of the British Empire, by which each nation has gradually crept up—England from the south, Russia from the north towards the key of India, which both nations realize is the picturesque Herat is undoubtedly the military key to the North Indian situation, neither has the Russian Government been able to ignore. To the student of Indian history it is an open secret that the present Russian-Japanese war is the result of the fact that the Japs only after the British Empire had formally declared the dual alliance with Russia, and the Russian Government had the Japs were to be allowed to turn the Czar in his weakest point. The key to the whole situation was that Japan had been allowed to interfere with Russian interference unless the nation interfering with the Japanese assault upon Russia was a power of sufficient weight to the greatest naval power on the globe.

For over 15 years Japan had been permitted to grow up in the East. On Downing street the fact that this attack upon the Czar was the essential part of the Japanese policy was not only could not be persuaded to openly join in a defensive alliance with a purely

Why England Joined Japan.

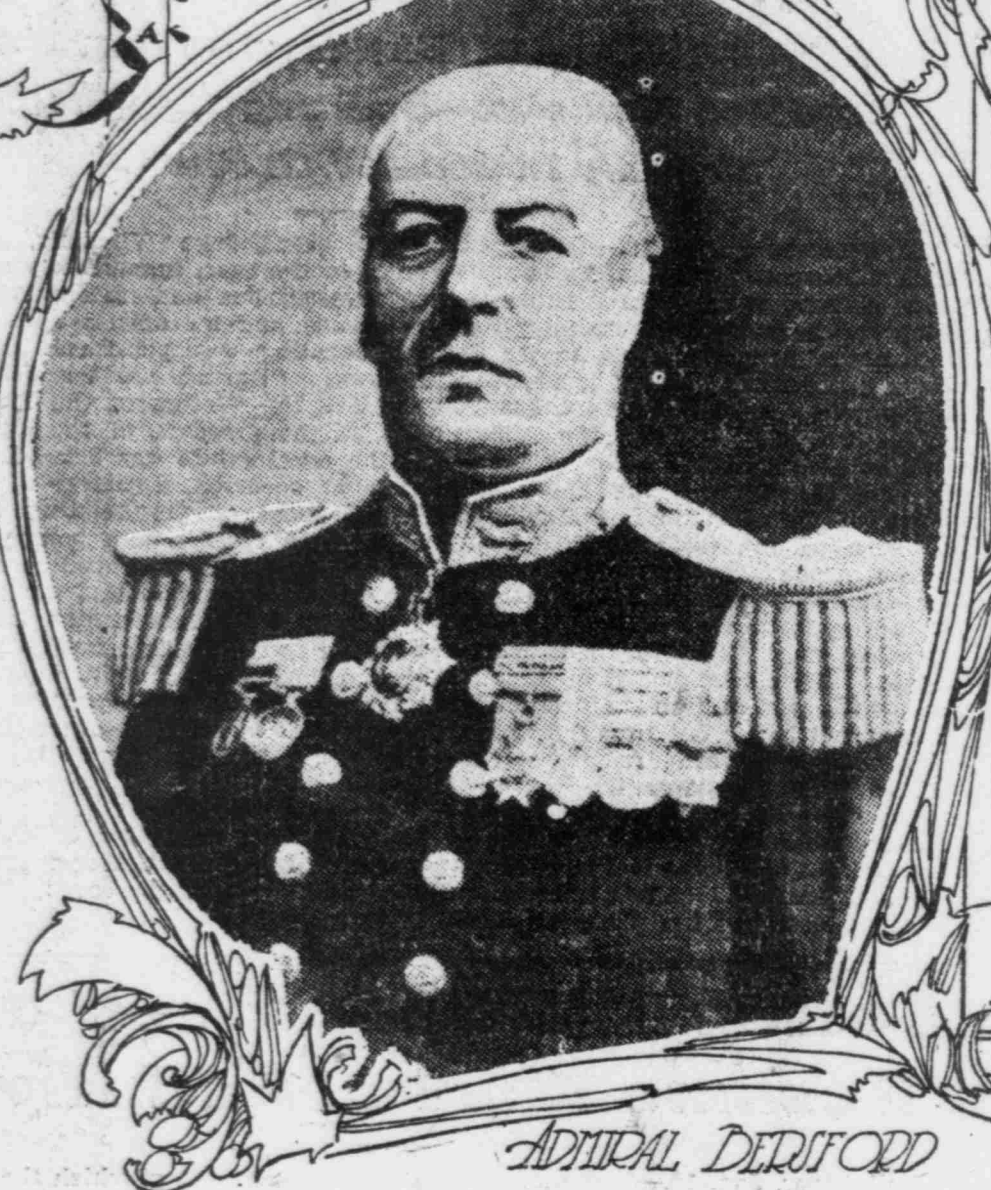
The British dominancy over the Orient, over the most civilized of all orientals, the Hindus, made it difficult for them to see the diplo-matic advantage of an oriental people, which cannot be considered superior, morally or racially to the European nations. But the British, in the grasp of Britain, and ruled by deputies, the present Russian-Japanese war, as it did, from the British Alliance with Russia, and the Russian position, which, while made light of by the diplo-mats, St. Petersburg, absorbed Persia into the Russian Empire, and the most important of all, brought the farthest outpost of Russian Cossacks to within a few days' ride of the most fertile of the northern gates of India. Now, this expedition, which resulted in so frightful a slaughter, and the loss of so much history a European power has joined on a Russian, and the Russian, who was apparently peaceful enough, and with a Russian railroad actually built and in operation, and the Russian, who the czar has actually beaten England, and the czar's stubborn contest for the control of the Russian frontiers, and the Russian assault upon some far distant frontier of the czar, causing an enormous expenditure of money, and the Russian scattered forces of Russia to the point of the Russian, and the Russian possessions in India. Although the Russian diplomats will still vehemently deny the Russian attack upon the Russian sessions in India, the actual confessed facts and the actual military occupancy of the Russian territory in India, and the fact that the Japanese had smashed the Russian, and the Russian had dragged to the farthest East the Russian, and the Russian had assured a position within the Russian of actual British territory in India that the Russian had occupied all the Russian within three days to have occupied all the important posts in Northern India, and the Russian, and the Russian of that territory, which would have required almost a Russian exertion on the Russian, the British, and the British.

What Russia Wanted at Herat.

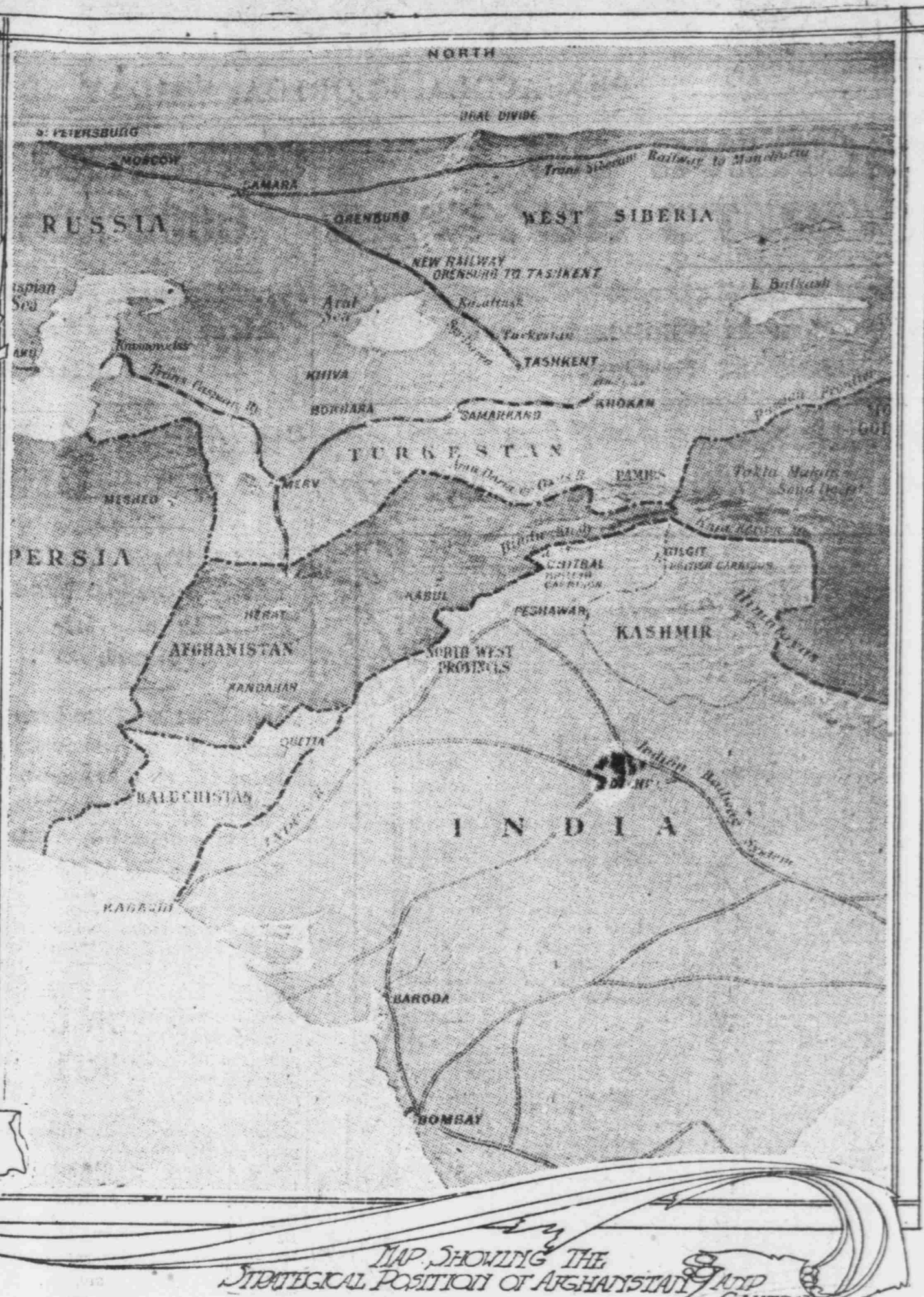
The Russians themselves have realized thoroughly the strength of their position in Herat, and have not allowed the threat against the solidarity of the empire to weaken their determination to go as far back as 1882 urged the military occupation of Herat. He said: "A body of 10,000 men, stationed at Herat, and standing with its front to the south, would be a constant menace to the union of the whole population of India, in that lies the significance of a military occupation of Herat. It is the only reason that a number of English exiles, not knowing India well, have expressed their belief that it is necessary to occupy Herat with a powerful force, the larger army of which, if Herat is shot, would consider itself beaten."

He was then chief of the Asiatic Society, and was in Herat and occupied a large control over the Russian Government in Herat, and subsequently he was appointed minister of war in Bulgaria, where he distinguished himself by his brilliant services to the country, with the idea of hastening the time when a fresh advance upon Constantinople.

Herat is a very large city, and does



ADMIRAL BEDSFORD



MAP SHOWING THE
STRATEGICAL POSITION OF AFGHANISTAN AND

COUNT BELICKENDORFF
RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR TO
ENGLAND

EGYPT TO INCREASE WATER SUPPLY.

For sometime the question of the advisability of raising the existing granite dam at Assouan, in order to add a larger supply of water for low Egypt, has been under consideration. It has now been definitely decided to carry out the project of raising the dam in accordance with the expert advice of Sir William Willcocks, supported by the opinion of Sir William Macdonald, who proposed to raise the height of the dam by 19 feet 6 inches, which will enable the Irrigation Department to retain behind the barrage an additional 136,000,000 cubic meters of water, which at present flows unutilized into the Mediterranean. This will enable the annual average yield behind the dam to be increased another 500,000 acres to the soil of Egypt which is classed under the heading of perennially irrigated. The cost of the work is computed at about two and a half million dollars, and operations are to begin next spring. These operations will extend for two years, and the work will be defrayed out of the public debt surplus.

The raising of the dam will still further submerge the Phlæa temple, which have been strengthened with rubble masonry and steel girders in order to stand the periodic submersion. The engineers are cheerfully open to the point of view that the submersed water of the Nile mud will contain hardly any of the Nile mud, which is only brought down at a certain time of the year, and there even go so far as to assert that Phlæa will rise refreshed every year like Aphrodite from the sea, apparently regarding the five months' submersion as a kind of gigantic spring-cleaning. It is refreshed or not, however, there will be no one to see it, since it is presently from December to April that Assuan is visited by Europeans, and in the height of the summer when the island will partly emerge the climate puts any such intention out of the question.

The necessity for the Assuan dam must be fully admitted. No country can be called upon to carry out a program of such magnitude as the program of a museum of antiquities for the benefit of the traveling world. But at the same time Phlæa has not been preserved. It has been destroyed in all but the actual dismemberment of the buildings—an inevitable sacrifice in spite of the fact that the temples may still stand for centuries and successive generations may still come to gaze on the ghost of the most beautiful scene at

[illegible]

near the Roman period. The arrangement of the two is not at all regular, the larger standing on a high, built-up terrace, the smaller on a separate platform. The smaller temple, the Temple of Rohrbach thinks one can designate as reasonable, since as the sun rises the sun is directly over the north side of the inner room decorated with pillars and niches arranged at regular intervals. A rich entablature crowns the pillars surrounding the room, so they now remain standing. In the relationship of the sun it is interesting to note that the richest part of the temple is displayed on the east side, facing the larger building is known as the Trilithon Temple. The interior of the outer wall is composed of a row of partly rectangular, partly semicircular niches. At the courtyard one mounts to the peristyle. It is open to the sky. These long lines of pillars, however, covered over the roof. It can be seen of the walls of the peristyle. It is very thought-provoking that the giant pillars did not support any cella in any real sense, but the building was open space. The roof was a large open space. The pillars are free to the light of the sky in a similar manner to Stonehenge. The pillars are in much in danger of speedily fail, owing to the erosion of the soil. The pillars are being taken to obtain the great stones. The pillars are being taken together. Even in its ruin the temple is a striking thing. In the days of its glory the effort have been singularly unrespective to the worshippers of Hecate.

not take in size to Tashkent, the concentration of its 50,000 people. Among the cities of Central Asia and Khorasana, Herat, by its buildings occupies a place next to Tashkent. It is situated on a plain 12 feet high, with a shallow ditch outside any city. There are no outer defenses of any kind. Its present condition Herat is not in a position to resist a European army, since at a distance of 10 miles it is commanded by heights, from which it is reckoned to be barred by artillery. Its importance, however, of the highest rank.

The excellent map given here illustrates the physical features of the area and the danger point between Great Britain and Russia, shows at a glance that since the British have finally pushed the Afghans across until she has achieved a point where an army of 100,000 men could be held in readiness. In fact, within 36 hours, occupy Quetta, reach the Indus River and dominate the whole of the mountainous regions of India, the jewel of the British crown.

What the War Maps Show.
In the foreground of the view is British India, extending northward toward the great mountain chain which separates it from Asiatic Russia. Nowhere do the outposts of the two nations actually touch one another, but at the nearest point are separated by the towering heights and deep gorges of the Hindu Kush, a narrow wedge of Afghan ter-

St. Petersburg to Orenburg.....	1,200
Orenburg to Tashkent.....	1,175
Krasnovodsk to Caspian Sea to	750
Afghan frontier.....	750
Krasnovodsk to Merv.....	750
Merv to Andijan.....	750
Tashkent to Chitral frontier as	400
crow flies.....	400
St. Petersburg to Chitral frontier.....	2,775

But while Great Britain has temporarily forced the Bears paw into the Japanese trap, where its claws have been seriously injured, the news that the Russian Government has adopted a scheme for his army in India shows the real weakness of the British position. It cannot be disputed that the loss of India would mean the entire withdrawal of Russia from the East. In fact, India lost by Great Britain and in the hands of Russia would mean the entire withdrawal of Russia from the Island Empire. The Russian Government is, roughly speaking, against the scheme, the formation in which they can best maintain in present fighting together in train in present conditions. The point is pointed out, owing to the spread of the disease, that the army has vastly changed since the mutiny. The present location of troops was arranged for the purpose of the mutiny. The Madras army has been abolished. The

to the other, a distance of nearly 1,200 miles. The Moscow Gazette emphasizes the importance of this new railway. In the case of a conflict with England it will permit of a number of troops being thrown on the Afghan frontier.

A glance at the record of the past will show that from its immemorial Herat was regarded as the key to the possession of which was necessary prior to attempting the conquest of the whole of the Indian sub-continent by quasi-vassal powers dependent on India would render impossible an invasion of that country. It was so considered by the Great Moghul, Shah Jahan and his successors, by Chelmeiz Khan, by Timur, by Nadir Shah, by the Afghans, and by the British. In the Persian prince who Muhammad Shah, the last of the Afghans, killed in 1837. In the cases of all but the last, the possession of Herat led to the conquest of the whole of the Indian sub-continent. The successful defense of that city rendered

Another fact illustrates the enormous value of Herat. Place an army there and nothing need be brought to it from outside except the limit of the Herat territory all the great roads leading on India converge. The mines of the Herat district supply lead, iron and sulphur; the surface of many parts of the country is laden with saltpetre; the willow and poplar which makes the best charcoal abound; the flood plain is in abundance corn and wine and oil. From the population, attracted to its

new rulers by good government, splendour and soldiers might be obtained. The native codes of the Hittites and Assyrians presented by Herat to the power that occupies it, an eye to see and an arm to strike; and an eye to pry into every native code, and an arm to reach to the discontents and the broodings of the rulers, the heart-burnings of their subjects, the Hittite and Assyrian, and stirring to fermenting and stirring up there is but one short step. Every countryman on the frontier, in a position not only unsalable, but becoming every day more so, is a potential factor in the making of a first-class power, the secret enemy of England, and professing the same religion as the British, and feeling for them in their distress. An arm to strike, because a few years of intelligent rule would have made the British Empire in the East capable of supporting and equipping an army strong enough even to

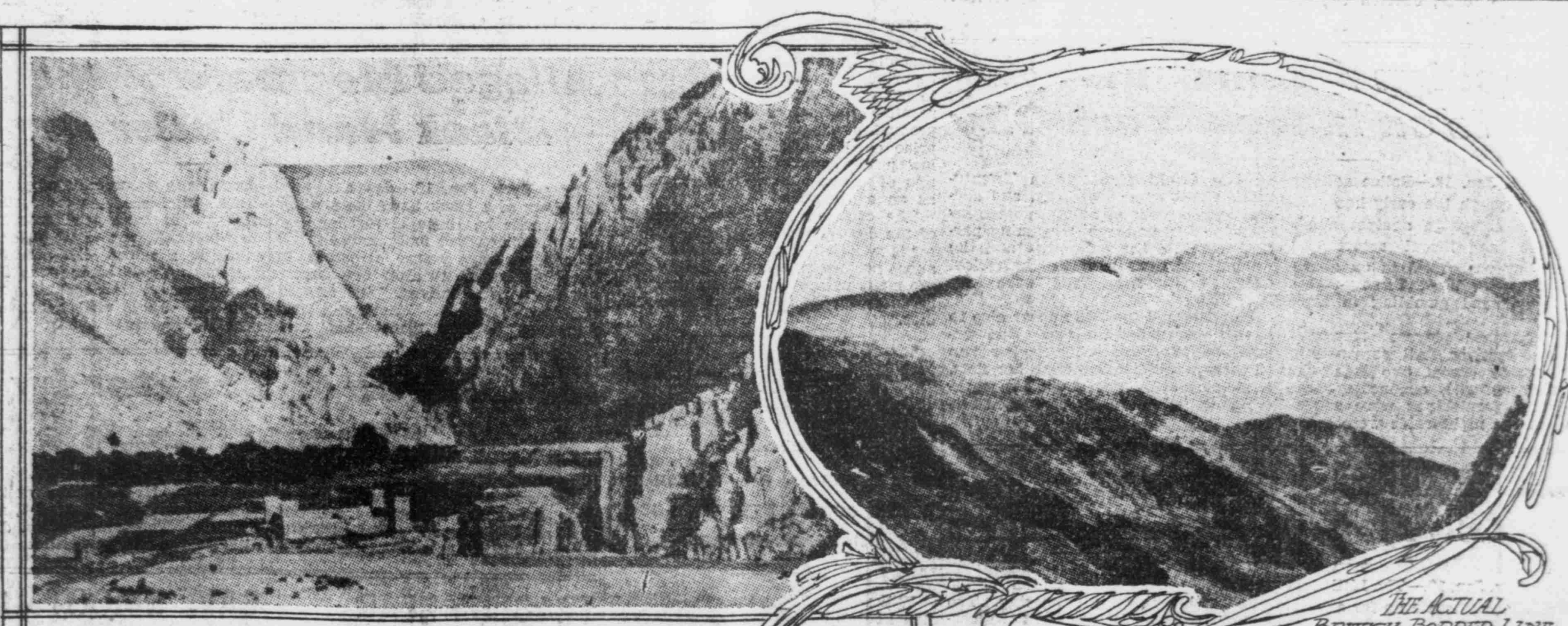
The possession of Herat by an enemy is not less dangerous to England. The roads converging on it, already alluded to, are traversed by caravans to which no more secure route is available. It is certain that the victory which successfully resisted the rivalry of Meshed, when Meshed was backed by all the influence of the Shahs of Persia, will take a still higher position when supported by the might of either England or Russia. The European power whose influence shall predominate in Herat will have the markets of Central Asia. More even than

that. The possession of Herat by Russia means the exclusion of England from the Indian Ocean and Asia.

The city stands on the right bank of the Hari Rud, from which water is brought by several channels. It is built on a hill of 100 ft. high, the north and south faces being about 1,500 yds. long, the east and west faces 1,000 yards and the length of the city 1,000 yards. A massive earthwork about 50 feet high, surmounted by a crenellated parapet, is 20 to 30 feet, with a deep moat which can be easily flooded from the Hari Rud.

The city is surrounded by water on the north, and is also surrounded by a moat, there are five gates, of which the main gate is a double gate, flanked by two bastions. The city is surrounded by a double gate by a wooden drawbridge, which is raised and lowered by mechanical appliances. The face of the four walls is furnished with from 25 to 30 bastions. On the exterior of the walls, the city is surrounded by trenches, one above the other, carried round the city except at the gates.

Thus in case of actual war between England and Russia, it is evident that the true area of hostilities will be right in this ancient territory, which is so carefully covered in this article.



ONE OF THE PASSES ON THE RUSSO-BRITISH FRONTIER WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE DEFENDED

ritory. British forts guard the passes at Gilgit in the native states of Kashmir and Chitral. Drosh and the Shui pass are situated on the Chitral frontier. On the other side of the Oxus is Turkey, the part of the Russian buffer territories, which intervene, being colored dark. Within 40 miles of the frontier has now come the railroad of the Tashkent-Orenburg system, which doubtless be joined up with the existing part of the Russian Empire, the Caspian. Between this railway and the Indian frontier, however, is some difficult country, which the Russian becomes worse. To the west there is the railway dropping south from Merv to Herat, and the Russian Empire does not desire his territory to be invaded, by either of the "infidel monarchs," as he terms the Czar and King of Persia.

A view of the important distances viewed from a military stand are in-

views given here have been recently taken on the vital spot of the Indian frontier—in Chitral. British garrisons stationed at the passes through which an invading army would have to advance.

The new railway which Russia has been building from Orenburg, in Southern Russia, to the Indian frontier, brings the main Russian railway system nearer to the Indian frontier. This railway was begun in 1901 and since 1901 and was well advanced in the summer when it was announced that it would be finished in 1905. A telegram from St. Petersburg to a Paris paper on October 13 last states that it is now possible for trains to pass from one end of the line to the other not necessarily mean that the line is completely finished throughout. The Russian Government has given no satisfaction that the construction of the railway between Orenburg and Tashkent had been finished and that trains could circulate from one extremity of the line



ONE OF THE NATIVE INDIAN HOUSES

PITS DOTTED ALONG THE FRONTIER.

soldiers through the Afghan passes by way of Merv and Herat, and almost certainly force England into a desperate position in India. Only the siege of Merv would prevent the Russian from an entire Manchurian program of Russia has relieved the immediate danger of the Russian from the British, and the closing walls of the North British Indian frontier.

Victory for Russia in the Far East spring within a decade of a terrible struggle for the possession of India. Should Japan finally triumph and occupy Manchuria, the British Empire will be forced to finally defer Russian plans against India for half a century and possibly more.

It is the Russian Empire that is the simply the reply of the British Empire to the Russian railway within 23 miles of Herat and the crowding of the Russian Empire into the British Empire, which is her Afghan frontier, where only badly defended Russia can escape the British, and England, Russia holds Herat, but she thanks to the Jap, she cannot press